THE ARLE OF STRAFFORDS LETTER,

To His moſt Excellent Maieſtie,

Dated from the *TOWER*,

upon the 4th of *May*, 1641.

With his Petition to the Lords *Spirituall* and *Temporall*, and the Honourable Houſe of

COMMONS.

London Printed 1641.

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The Earle of *Straffords* Letter, to his most Excellent MAIESTIE, dated from the *Tower* the 4th of MAY 1641.

May it please your sacred Majestie.

IT hath bin my greatest griefe in all these troubles, to be taken as a person which should endavour to represent and set things amisse between your Majesty and your people; and to give Counsells tending to the disquiet of the three Kingdomes.

Most true it is, that this mine owne private Condition considered, it had beene a great madnesse, since through your gratious favour I was so provided, as not to expect in any kind to mend my fortune or please my mind, more, then by resting where your bounteous hands had placed mee.

Nay, it is most mightily misstaken, for unto your Majesty it is well knowne, my poore, and humble advises concluded still in this, That your Majesty and your people could never bee happy, till there were a right understanding betwixt you and them: no other meanes to effect, and settle this happinesse, but by the Councell, and assent of the Parliament; or to prevent the growing Evills upon this state but by intirely putting your selfe in the last resort, upon the loyalty, and good affections of your English subjects.

Yet such is my misfortune, this truth findeth little credit, the contrary seemeth generally to be beleeved, and my selfe

reputed, as ſome thing of ſeparation betweene you, and your people; under a heavyer cenſure then which I am perſwaded no Gentleman can ſuffer.

Now, I underſtand the minds of men are more incenced againſt mee, notwithſtanding your Majeſty hath declared, that in your princely opinion, I am not guilty of treaſon, nor are you ſatisfied in your conſcience to paſſe the Bill:

This bringeth me into a very great ſtreight, there is before me the ruine of my Children, and family, hitherto untouched, in all the branches of it with any foule Crimes. Here is before me the many ills, which may befall your Sacred perſon, and the whole kingdome, ſhould your ſelfe, and Parliament part leſſe ſatisfied one with the other, then is neceſſary for the preſervation both of King and people. Here are before me the things moſt valued, moſt feared, by mortall man, *Life*, or *Death*.

To ſay Sir, that there hath not beene a ſtrife in mee, were to make me leſſe man, then God knoweth my infirmities give me. And to call a deſtruction upon my ſelfe, and young Children, where the intentions of my heart, at leaſt have beene innocent of this great offence) may bee believed, will find no eaſie conſent from fleſh and bloud.

But with much ſadneſſe, I am come to a reſolution, of that which I take to the beſt becomming mee, to looke upon that which is moſt principall in it ſelfe, which doubtleſſe is the proſperity of Your ſacred Perſon, and the Common-Wealth, infinitely before any private mans intereſt.

And therefore in few words, as I put my ſelfe wholy upon the honour, and juſtice of my Peeres ſo clearely, as to beſeech your Majeſty might pleaſe to have ſpared that declaration of yours on Saturday laſt, aud intirely to have left me to their Lordſhips; ſo now, to ſet your Majeſties conſcience at liberty, I doe moſt humbly beſeech your Majeſty, in prevention of miſtakes which may happen, by your refuſall, to paſſe this Bill; And by this meanes remove (prayſed be God) I cannot ſay, this accurſed,

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(but I confeſſe) this unfortunate thing forth of the way, towards that bleſſed agreement, which God I truſt, ſhall ever eſtabliſh betweene you, and your ſubjects.

Sir my conſent ſhall more acquit you herein to God, then all the world can doe beſides. To a willing man there is no injury done. And as by Gods grace I forgive all the world with a calmeneſſe and meekneſſe of infinite Contentment to my diſlodging ſoule; So Sir, to you can I give the life of this world, with all the cheerefulneſſe Imaginable; in the juſt acknowledgement of your exceeding favours. And onely begge that in your goodneſſe, you would vouchſafe to caſt your gratious regard upon my poore Soone, and his three Siſters, leſſe, or more, and no otherwiſe, then as their (in preſent) unfortunate Father, may hereafter appeare more, or leſſe guilty of this death.

God long preſerve your Majeſty.

Your Majeſties moſt faithfull, and
humble Subject, and Servant

Tower
4. *May* 1641. STRAFFORD.

The Petition of the Earle of Strafford unto the Lords before hee Dyed.

To the Right Honourable the *Lords* Spirituall and Temporall, in this present Parliament *Assembled*.

THe humble Petition of *Thomas* late Earle of *Strafford*. Sheweth that seeing it is the good will and pleasure of God that your Petitioner is now shortly to pay that duty which we all owe to our fraile Nature; Hee shall in all Christian Patience and Charity confirme and submit himselfe to your Iustice, in a comfortable assurance of the great Hope, laid up for us in the Mercy and Merits of our Saviour blessed for ever.

Only hee humbly craves, to returne your Lordships most humble thanks for your Noble Compassion towards those innocent Children; whom now with his last blessing he must commit to the protection of Almighty God, beseeching Your Lord-ships to finish your Pious intentions towards them: And desiring that the reward thereof may bee fulfill'd in You, by him that is able *to give above all we are able either to aske or think*. Wherein I trust the Honourable House of Commons wil afford their Christian assistance.

And so beseeching your Lord-ships charitably to forgive all his omissions and infirmities, he doth very heartily and truely recommend Your Lord-ships to the Mercies of Our Heavenly Father, and that for his goodnesse he may perfect you in every good worke. *Amen*.

Tho. Wentworth.

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